

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2259
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN'S WELFARE SCHEME
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of women's welfare schemes under implementation;
- (b) the details of financial aid provided to NGOs working in Andhra Pradesh for the welfare of women alongwith the criteria for providing grants;
- (c) whether the Government have made any observations on the performance of NGOs implementing welfare schemes in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

- (a) The details of women's welfare schemes are given in Annexure.
- (b) Details of financial aid provided to NGOs working in Andhra Pradesh are available in the Annual Reports of the Department of Women and Child Development. Funds are provided as per the guidelines of specific schemes.
- (c)&(d) While some of the NGOs are doing well, performance of a few organizations has not been satisfactory. Necessary action against non-performing organisations has been initiated.

Annexure

Statement in respect of part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2259 for 30.7.2002 Regarding Implementation of Women's Welfare Scheme by Shri B.K. Parthasarathi.

1. HOSTELS FOR WORKING WOMEN

Under the scheme of construction/expansion of Hostel Building for Working women with a Day Care Centre, financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations, local bodies and cooperative institutions engaged in the field of women's/social welfare/women's education. Public Sector Undertaking, Women Development Corporations, Educational Institutions and State Governments for the construction of hostels for working women in order to enable women seek employment and participate in technical training. The objective of the Scheme is to provide cheap and safe hostel accommodation to employed working living out of their homes. The target beneficiaries are single working women, widows, divorcee, separated and working women whose husbands are out of town. Women getting training for employment and girl students studying in post school professional courses are also eligible to stay in the hostel.

2. SETTING UP OF EMPLOYMENT-CUM-TRAINING-CUM-INCOME GENERATING UNITS FOR WOMEN (NORAD)

This programme was launched in 1982-83 with assistance from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). Under this programme, financial assistance is given to Women's Development Corporations, Public Sector Corporations, autonomous bodies, and voluntary organisations, to train poor women, mostly in non- traditional trades and to ensure their employment in these areas. Some of the trades are computer programming, electronics, watch assembling, radio and television repairs, garment making, secretarial practices, community health work, embroidery, weaving, etc. Financial assistance is given to the grantee organisation for hiring of training-cum- production sheds, training costs, machinery and equipment, stipend to the trainees and remuneration for the trainers.

3. SUPPORT TO TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (STEP)

This Programme launched in 1987, seeks to provide updated skills and new knowledge to poor and assetless women in the traditional sectors, such as, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, handlooms, handicrafts, khadi and village industries, sericulture, social forestry and wasteland development for enhancing their productivity and income generation. This would enhance

and broaden their employment opportunities, including self-employment and development of entrepreneurial skills. Women beneficiaries are organised into viable and cohesive groups or co-operatives. A comprehensive package of services, such as, extension, inputs, market linkages etc. are provided besides linkage with credit for transfer of assets.

4. SHORT STAY HOMES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The scheme was launched in 1969 to protect and rehabilitate those women and girls who are facing social and moral danger due to family problems, mental strains, social ostracism, exploitation and other causes. The services extended in these homes include medical care, psychiatric treatment, case work services, occupational therapy, education-cum-vocational training and recreational facilities. A recurring grant of Rs.4,01,350 and non-recurring grant of Rs.50,000 is provided under the scheme. The new Homes are sanctioned by the Department, but maintenance of the existing Homes is looked after by the Central Social Welfare Board through the State Boards.

5. DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Self-Help Groups have emerged as one of the major strategies in group formation and various schemes of the Govt. of India have shown that strong women's groups could contribute substantially to the development and convergence of services and activities. Experiences with various programmes and projects has highlighted the benefits of formation of women's groups for building confidence and focusing on developmental tasks. The project called "Distance Education for Women's Development & Empowerment" aims to address some of the critical areas of concern. It is the first such programme of its kind in the country. The Scheme proposes to launch a certificate course by IGNOU to train a large mass of trainers from amongst village level implementers of the projects, their supervisors and district level functionaries. Such trainers after their successful participation in the project would be able to guide sustainable group formation work in their areas. Such an approach will also speed up the whole training process since as large number of centers could be activated simultaneously and the grassroot level trainers could be directly accessed.

6. CONDENSED COURSES

Condensed courses: The Scheme of Condensed Course of Education for Women was started by the Central Social Welfare Board during the year 1958 with the objective of providing basic education and skills to needy women and also to benefit widows, destitute deserted women and also those belonging to economically backward classes. Under the Scheme, grant is given to voluntary organisations for conducting courses of two-year duration for preparing candidates for primary, middle and matric level examinations and one-year duration for matric failed candidates.

7. AWARENESS GENERATION PROJECT (AGP)

The Awareness Generation Programme aims to identify the needs of rural and poor women and to generate awareness among them about their status in the family and society and to activate them to work for achieving their rights and to deal with social issues. Since 1993-94, special emphasis has been given to participation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions and their role in promoting national integration and communal harmony. Some of the schemes of the Department of Women & Child Development such as the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and the Mahila Samridhi Yojana have also been included in this Scheme to motivate rural women towards self-reliance. Relevant topics are taken up in a camp of 8 days duration for 25 beneficiaries, which are followed by 2 days for detailed evaluation of the camp. The assessment of the impact of the camp on the beneficiaries and the community is done within 6 months on completion of the camp. A sum of Rs.10,000/- is given to an organisation for one Awareness Generation Project. Training of organisers is a pre-requisite condition for organising the camps for which a number of training centres in every state have been identified by the National Standing Committee and CSWB. The expense of Rs.1000/- per trainee is provided by the Central Social Welfare Board.

8. SCHEME FOR WOMEN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES - SWADHAR

The Swadhar scheme has recently been launched for the Women in Difficult Circumstances. The scheme has been designed with a flexible and innovative approach to cater to the requirement of various types of women in distress in diverse situations under different conditions. The scheme provides shelter for the exploited women by families and relatives, trafficked women and other regions thereof.

9. INTEGRATED WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (IWEP) – SWYAMSIDHA

Swayamsidha is an Integrated scheme for women's empowerment. It is based on formation of women into Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and aims at holistic empowerment of women through awareness generation, economic empowerment and convergence of various schemes.

The vision of Swayamsidha is to mobilize and develop empowered women who will:

- Â\$ Demand their rights from family, community and government;
- Â\$ Have increased access to, and control over, material, social and political resources;
- Â\$ Have enhanced awareness and improved skills; and
- Â\$ Be able to raise issues of common concern through mobilization and networking.

As a result of Swyamsidha, the nature of changes envisaged are expected to result in self-reliant and sustainable institutions, which priorities women's needs and interests and bring about their social and economic empowerment. These institutions should be ready in the last year to take over the role of implementers to ensure complete sustainability of the approach even after completion of Swyamsidha.

10. RURAL WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWEMENT PROJECT (SWA-SHAKTI)

The Swa-Shakti Project, earlier known as Rural Women's Development and Empowerment Project, was sanctioned on 16-10- 1998 as a Centrally-sponsored Project for a period of 5 years with an estimated outlay of Rs.186.21 crore. In addition, an amount of Rs.5 crore is being provided during the project period, for facilitating the setting up, in the project states, of Revolving Funds for giving interest-bearing loans to beneficiary groups primarily during their initial formative stage.